

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 10, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write to express our concern with the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) delay in obligating appropriated funds for the Capital Investment Grant (CIG) Program and urge you to immediately begin entering into new Full Funding and Small Starts Grant Agreements for projects that have met all requirements. Should these delays continue, we will push for more strict obligating requirements in any Consolidated Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations bill.

Year after year, Congress has reaffirmed its commitment to transit capital projects – most recently in March 2018 when Congress passed and the President agreed to the highest-ever CIG funding level and directed the Secretary of Transportation to administer the program “in accordance with the procedural and substantive requirements of section 5309 of [Title 49, U.S.C.].” Yet nearly six months later, the FTA has stalled projects past their anticipated receipt of full funding grant agreements which has contributed to the project delays, cost overruns, and red tape so frequently excoriated by this administration.

Throughout its existence, the CIG program has generated regional economic benefits, attracted businesses to project corridors, connected workers to their employers, and relieved freight congestion chokepoints. The benefits of a project also extend well beyond the project corridor. Across the country, local taxpayers have already stepped up to support transit projects and are relying on the federal government to be a strong partner, rather than inject uncertainty.

We urge you fulfill your promises and immediately begin entering into new Full Funding and Small Start Grant Agreements.

Sincerely,



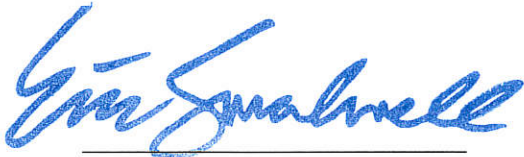
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
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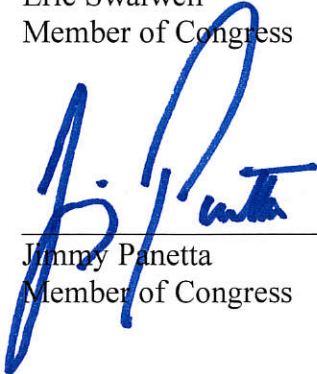
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.
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Jimmy Panetta
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Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Val Demings
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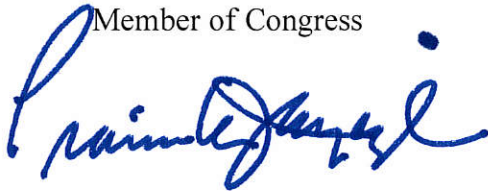
Mike Doyle
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Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



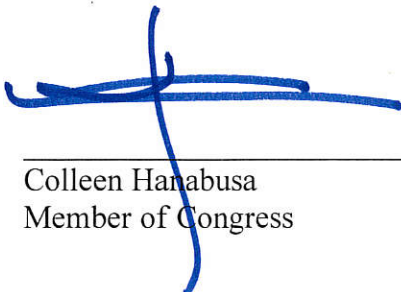
Ruben J. Kihuen
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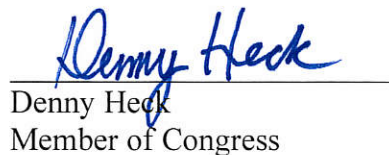
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Colleen Hanabusa
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Denny Heck
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Charlie Crist
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James P. McGovern
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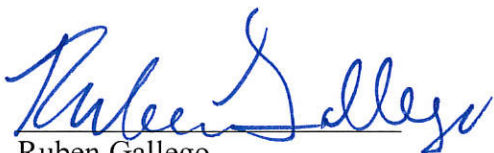
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Scott Peters
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Brendan F. Boyle
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Ruben Gallego
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Robin L. Kelly
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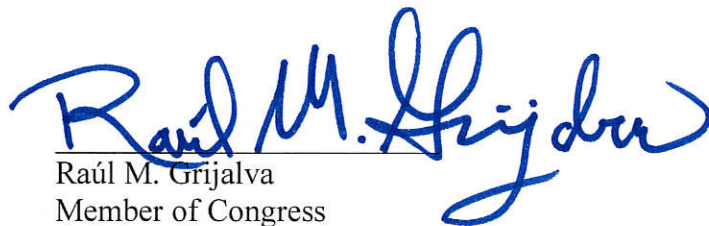
Mark Pocan
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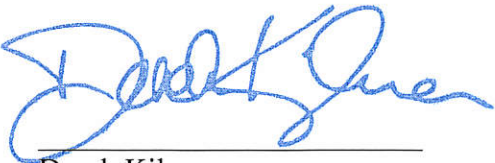
Mark Takano
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Kathleen M. Rice
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Lucille Roybal-Allard
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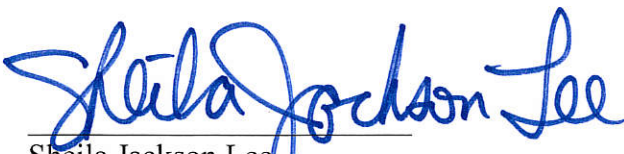
Rick Larsen
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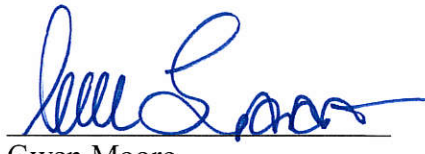
Andre Carson
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Chellie Pingree
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Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress




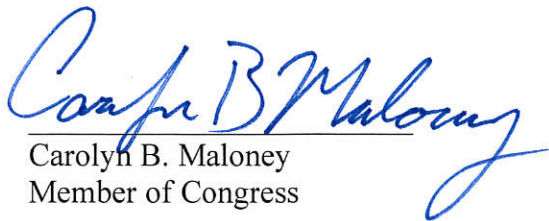
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



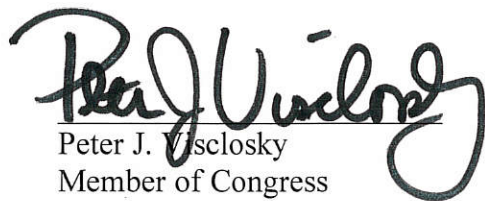
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress


Adam Smith
Member of Congress

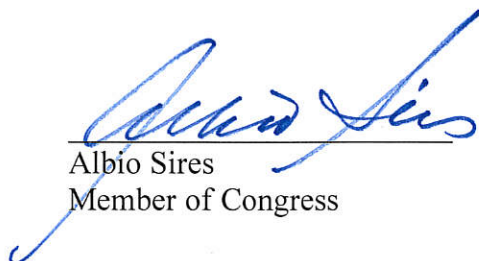

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John Garamendi
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Brian Higgins
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Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Cc: K. Jane Williams, Acting Administrator, Federal Transit Administration